

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 03003 312050Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07
SOE-02 DOE-11 SSM-03 /130 W
-----105356 010546Z /21

R 311840Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5058
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 03003

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC TECH PARM FR US IS IZ
SUBJ: FRENCH RESEARCH REACTOR SALE TO IRAQ: ISRAELI
CONCERNS

REF: PARIS 1144

1. I MET JAN 31 WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR GAZIT AT HIS REQUEST. ALONG WITH OTHER SUBJECTS, WE BRIEFLY MENTIONED THE FRENCH RESEARCH REACTOR SALE TO IRAQ. GAZIT INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FRENCH HAD SET ASIDE 80 KG OF HEU FROM PIERRELATTE, ASSUMING THEY COULD NOT GAIN USG APPROVAL AT SOME POINT TO UTILIZE US ENRICHED FUEL. GAZIT'S INFORMATION IS THAT THE FIRST CORE IS DUE TO BE SHIPPED IN 1980 OR 1981 AND THAT THERE WILL BE FRENCH TECHNICIANS AT THE REACTOR DURING THE FULL PERIOD OF THE LIFE OF THE FIRST CORE TO OVERSEE ITS USE AND RETURN TO FRANCE. ISRAEL IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT (TOO MUCH OPPORTUNITY FOR HEU TO BE MISUSED). GAZIT PERSONALLY ASKED IF I FELT THE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 03003 312050Z

FRENCH COULD BE PERSUADED TO DELAY THE SCHEDULE TO PERMIT COMPLETION OF THE LOWER ENRICHED CORE DESIGN AND TESTING AND THUS PERMIT THE FIRST CORE TO BE OF THE 20 PERCENT ENRICHED MATERIAL.

2. I ADVISED GAZIT THAT THIS WAS NOT A GOOD TIME TO RAISE SUCH ISSUES WITH THE GOF; PROBABLY AFTER THE

ELECTION THERE WOULD BE A MORE WORKABLE CLIMATE. IN THAT LIGHT, I ALSO ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT AT ALL HELPFUL TO ISRAELI OBJECTIVES IN THIS ISSUE TO HAVE HAD THE NEWS LEAK THAT RESULTED IN THE JAN 12 JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE.

3. OUR INFORMATION FROM QUA I AND CEA OFFICIALS IS THAT THE GOF IS WORKING ON AN ACCEPTABLE DESIGN FOR A CORE FOR THE OSIRIS REACTOR USING 20 PERCENT ENRICHED FUEL. CURRENT ESTIMATES ARE THAT THIS REDESIGN WOULD NOT BE READY FOR USE IN THE IRAQ REACTOR UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST OR SECOND CORE, ASSUMING THE SCHEDULE IN THE CONTRACT REMAINS EFFECTIVE. DURING THE PERIOD OF OPERATION OF THESE TWO LOADINGS, FRENCH TECHNICIANS WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO WORK AT THE REACTOR. THE SCHEDULE FOR THE LOWER ENRICHED CORE COULD BE ADVANCED, BUT IT IS NOT NOW POSSIBLE TO PREDICT WITH REASONABLE ASSURANCE ANY EARLIER DATE (I.E., POSSIBLE BUT NOW NOT PROBABLE THAT THE FIRST OR SECOND CORE LOADINGS COULD BE OF THE LOWER ENRICHED FUEL).
HARTMAN

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